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While in no way do I seek to detract from the scientific worth of the laborious and careful work of Dr Seligmann I wish to take this opportunity to emphasize the contrast between the mass of the book and Captain Barton's chapter entitled "the Annual Trading Expedition to the Papuan Gulf," quotations from the late Dr Chalmers, and some of the material quoted from the Annual Reports. Dr Seligmann's part of the book is an excellent compilation and comparative study of scientific data; these other parts of the work are better, because, while equally scientific,—or the author would not have used them as he did use them,—they are intimate, sympathetic, and alive. These other authors know personally many of the individuals they present. Their human animals are live men like themselves, their scenes move before the reader, their facts are so presented that the reader takes an active part in the expeditions and other occasions. One part of the book is read because the reader is interested in the facts presented; the other he reads because of the innate human interest in the facts.

Too frequently the ethnologist's writings are desert-dry. This is due largely to two causes; one, the lack of intimate knowledge of the peoples he presents; and, the other, the apparent fear to use the imagination. Whereas, the use of the imagination to assemble the scientifically gathered facts is not only proper but wise and greatly to be desired.

ALBERT ERNEST JENKS.

A Gilbertese-English Dictionary. By HIRAM BINGHAM, D.D., Missionary of the American Board. Boston: American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 1908. Pp. viii, 179.

The Gilbert group, although by its position a most important link between Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia, has remained until the present very little known. Except for rather brief descriptions by the earlier explorers of the Pacific, and the accounts of Wilkes, Finsch, etc., the literature relating to the islands is scanty and superficial. On the language spoken by the Gilbertese, there has been very little accessible, Hale's sketch in the seventh volume of the United States Exploring Expedition and Colombe's vocabulary of Arorai being the chief sources, except the translations prepared by the various missionary organizations. These previous sources have supplied comparatively brief vocabularies only, so that the present dictionary, with some 12,000 words, is extremely welcome, and affords a goodly mass of material for students of Oceanic languages.

As revealed in the dictionary and in the preface, the general pho-

netics of the language seem, as does the grammar, to be closer to the Melanesian than to the Polynesian languages. These Melanesian similarities are in many respects closer than are those of the various Caroline dialects. As stated by the author, surds and sonants are not clearly distinguished, but the former are nearer to the actual sounds. The sounds of the r-l-d group are almost interchangeable, or at least separated from one another with difficulty. This recalls the frequency of the equivalence of these sounds in the languages of Malaysia. Apparently words beginning with a consonant are relatively abundant.

The dictionary is primarily intended for the use of persons desiring to become missionaries among the people of the islands. If so, it seems curious that some provision was not made for at least a short list of the commonest words in English-Gilbertese. The arrangement wholly under the Gilbertese-English alphabet makes the use of the dictionary almost impossible for anyone wishing to learn the language, or for students who desire to compare Gilbertese forms with those in use elsewhere. The author states in the preface, that the dictionary contains, in addition to the words of Gilbert origin, several hundred Gilbertized English and Hebrew words derived from the Bible translations. One cannot help thinking, in turning the pages of the dictionary, that it is hardly necessary to introduce into the language of these people so many words of wholly foreign origin and no meaning to the people themselves. Such words as pygarg, bdellium, cor, gier, gnu, etc., seem wholly unnecessary. The great mass of the terms included in the dictionary, however, i. e., those of purely native origin, will be of much service to all students of the linguistic puzzles of this most interesting region, and all must be most grateful to the author for the great labor which he has undertaken in preparing so complete a dictionary.

R. B. DIXON.

Melanesians and Polynesians. Their Life-Histories described and compared.
By GEORGE BROWN, D.D. London: Macmillan and Co., 1910. Pp. xv, 451.

Adequate descriptions of the savage peoples of Melanesia during the early period of their contact with European nations are rare. Most of our information relative to this area dates from the last two decades. This volume, therefore, is most welcome in that it gives us observations made some thirty or forty years ago. The title of the book hardly gives an exact idea of the real character of the volume. Under the caption of "Melanesians and Polynesians," the author, an English missionary, has brought together a large mass of valuable material derived from